

Where the Eight Required Elements can be Found

In order to receive funds through the State Wildlife Grant Program, each state must complete a Comprehensive Wildlife Comprehensive Strategy (CWCS) which will address the species the state fish and wildlife agency deems “in greatest need of conservation”, while addressing the full array of wildlife and wildlife–related issues. The CWCS must also address all of the eight elements required by the Congress. The eight elements are:

1. Information on the distribution and abundance of species in greatest need of conservation, low and declining populations as the State Fish and Wildlife Agency deems appropriate, that are indicative of the diversity and health of State’s Wildlife.

This information can be found in the 257 Species Summaries in Chapter 10, which includes a narrative of the life history, key threats, and a statewide distribution map. The species are also listed in the Table of Species in Greatest Need of Conservation, Chapter 6A.

2. Descriptions of locations and relative condition of key habitats and community types essential to conservation of those species identified in item 1.

This information is listed for each of 22 habitat types in Chapter 9, Conservation Strategies by Habitat. This section includes a narrative describing each habitat, a list of Species in Greatest Need of Conservation in that habitat, a narrative linking the species to how they use the habitat, and, in most cases, a statewide distribution map of the habitat.

3. Description of problems which may adversely affect species identified in item 1 or their habitats, and priority research and survey efforts needed to identify factors which may assist in restoration and improved conservation of these species and their habitats.

An overview of the large-scale problems affecting biodiversity in the Commonwealth is addressed in Chapter 3. Habitat-specific information is found in Chapter 9, Conservation Strategies by Habitat, which includes a narrative of the threats facing the habitat and species and a listing of the proposed conservation strategies, including research needs and monitoring plans.

4. Description of conservation actions proposed to conserve the identified species and habitats and priorities for implementing such actions.

In Chapter 7, Overview of Conservation Strategies, we describe and summarize the range of conservation strategies proposed for the CWCS species and habitats. Chapter 9, Conservation Strategies by Habitat, lists the specific conservation strategies for each of the 22 habitats and their associated species.

5. Proposed plans for monitoring species identified in item 1 and their habitats, for monitoring the effectiveness of the conservation actions proposed in item 4, and for adapting these conservation actions to respond appropriately to new information or changing conditions.

The proposed monitoring plans are described within Chapter 9, Conservation Strategies by Habitat, for each of the 22 habitat types and their associated species.

6. Description of procedures to review the strategy at intervals not to exceed ten years.

This information is found in Chapter 11, Schedule of CWCS Review and Revision.

7. Plans for coordinating the development, implementation, review, and revision of the plan with Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian tribes that manage significant land and water areas within the State or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of identified species and habitats.

The CWCS was first drafted by MDFW staff and then made available to all our state, federal, local and tribal partners and to the general public for their review and comment (see Chapter 5, p. 89). The CWCS was amended as appropriate based on these comments. We expect the review and revision process to follow roughly the same process (see Chapter 11). One of the primary goals of the CWCS is to provide information and guidance to our partners regarding the conservation of habitats and species identified in the CWCS. Implementation of these conservation strategies by all conservation partners will be encouraged. We have longstanding relationships with these partners, which leads us to believe that these priorities are shared priorities will be implemented as is feasible. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife operates in the Department of Fish and Game which is part of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA). EOEA is the Secretariat which contains all of the environmental resource agencies of state government and coordinates the overall activities of these line agencies. EOEA has been aware of the development of the CWCS throughout the process through regular staff briefings and directly from the Fish and Wildlife Board.

8. Congress also affirmed through this legislation that broad public participation is an essential element of developing and implementing these plans, the projects that are carried out while these plans are developed, and the Species in Greatest Need of Conservation that Congress has indicated such programs and projects are intended to emphasize.

Public participation in developing the CWCS took many forms. The MDFW operates under the direction of an appointed Fish and Wildlife Board. An appointed Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Advisory Committee advises the MDFW director on rare species issues. The CWCS has been developed with the assistance of this public Board and Committee, along with the public at large and other resource groups and agencies that provided comment during the review process. An overview of the process we used for garnering broad public support for the conservation strategies described in the CWCS is set forth in Chapter 5, Methodology and Approach, starting on page 89.